



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re patent application of:

BRUNELOT et al.

Serial No. 09/856,684

Group Art Unit: 1754

Filed: May 24, 2001

Examiner: P. Lish

For: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR INCINERATION AND VITRIFICATION OF  
WASTE, IN PARTICULAR RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Reasons for Allowance attached to the Notices of Allowance, having a mailing date of June 28, 2004. Applicants offer the following comments in response to the Examiner's statements.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the presently pending claims have been allowed, in part for the following reasons:

It is seen that regarding the prior art to Floyd et al., there is no teaching or suggestion that the injection means for the oxygen-containing gas enter through the bottom of the reactor. Additionally, it is held by the applicant that the essential characteristics of the injection means, in order for it to prevent a plug of glass from forming upon cessation of oxygen-containing gas flow, are 1) the means are disposed vertically through the bottom (of the bottom plate) of the reactor and 2) the means are provided with an opening disposed 90° to the vertical axis. See specification, page 7, lines 18-22. The claims, which require this injection means, are thus limited as such.

Accordingly, applicants agree with the Examiner that the

previously rejected claims, namely present claims 9, 11-12, 14, and 15, are patentable over the references of record since these claims require that the injection means "are introduced into the bottom portion of said reactor beneath the surface of said bath of molten glass".

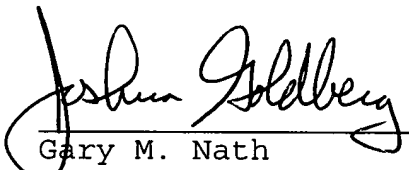
If the Examiner has any comments to the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to discuss these comments as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

**NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC**

Date: September 16, 2004  
NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC  
1030 Fifteenth Street, N.W.  
Sixth Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 775-8383

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary M. Nath  
Registration No. 26,965  
Joshua B. Goldberg  
Registration No. 44,126  
Customer No. 20529

